

RESOLUTION NO. 1277

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EDMONDS, WASHINGTON, ESTABLISHING A POLICY REQUIRING THE CITY GOVERNMENT OF EDMONDS, ITS TENANTS, RENTERS, AND ALL OFFICIALLY SANCTIONED USERS OF ITS FACILITIES AND PARKS TO EMPLOY ONLY REUSABLE OR COMPOSTABLE FOOD SERVICE ITEMS; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Edmonds (the "City") has a duty to protect the natural environment, the economy and the health of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature in RCW 70.95.010(8)(a) established waste reduction as the first priority for the collection, handling, and management of solid waste; and

WHEREAS, in addition to waste reduction, the Washington State Legislature in RCW 70.95.010(8-16) also identified the following as priorities: waste reduction, recycling, avoiding excessive and nonrecyclable packaging of products, education so that people are informed of the need to reduce, source separate, and recycle solid waste, and government entities setting an example by implementing aggressive waste reduction programs at their workplaces and by purchasing products that are made from recycled materials and are recyclable; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature in RCW 70.95.010(4) found that it is "necessary to change manufacturing and purchasing practices and waste generation behaviors to reduce the amount of waste that becomes a governmental responsibility"; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature in RCW 70.95.010(6)(c) found that it is the responsibility of city governments "to assume primary responsibility for solid waste management and to develop and implement aggressive and effective waste reduction and source

separation strategies"; and

WHEREAS, the Edmonds City Council has continuously indentified sustainability as an important goal for the City; and

WHEREAS, the use of polystyrene and other plastic-based, single-use, non-compostable food packaging and foodservice items serve a limited purpose that is disproportionately detrimental to the welfare of the environment; and

WHEREAS, although polystyrene and other plastic-based, single-use, non-compostable food packaging and service ware are often used and disposed of in minutes or days, they take thousands of years to decompose, and lead to devastating effects such as pollution and harm to marine life, wildlife, and public health; and

WHEREAS, there is no meaningful and available method of recycling polystyrene and commonly used plastic-based food packaging and service ware, however, there are alternative multi-use or compostable products that can serve the same purpose as polystyrene and plastic-based food packaging and service items; and

WHEREAS, polystyrene and other plastic-based, single-use, non-compostable food packaging and service ware represent an unnecessary use of a nonrenewable resource, especially when reusable and compostable products represent a preferable and sustainable alternative; and

WHEREAS, reusable and compostable food packaging and service ware are considerably less damaging to the environment than polystyrene and other plastic-based and non-compostable food packaging and service ware; and

WHEREAS, replacing the use of polystyrene and other plastic-based, non-compostable food packaging and service ware with those that are reusable and compostable is recognized as a sustainable option to protect the environment and to conserve resources; and

WHEREAS, reusable and compostable food packaging and service ware alternatives are readily available for use; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Edmonds City Council to reduce the negative impacts noted above through the implementation of this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the City of Edmonds itself needs to lead the way in the effort to eliminate the use of polystyrene or other plastic-based, single-use, non-compostable food packaging and service ware; and,

WHEREAS, the Edmonds City Council finds that reduction in use of polystyrene and other plastic-based, single-use, non-compostable food packaging and service ware is in the best interest of public health, safety, and welfare for the citizens of Edmonds and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Policy below is in accordance with the following goals of the Edmonds Comprehensive Plan: Community Sustainability Element Climate Change Goal E, Community Health Goal E, and Environmental Quality Goal A, and the Utilities Element Goal;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EDMONDS, WASHINGTON, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2012:

Section 1. The governmental operations of City of Edmonds will no longer purchase or provide single-use polystyrene or other plastic-based, non-compostable food service packaging or ware for any City-sponsored function providing food and/or beverages to its participants. This covers the full range of items for this purpose, including, but not limited to, cups, plates, utensils, straws and stir sticks, napkins or bibs, etc. This also includes the packaging materials covering and protecting any food or beverage provided, with the exceptions

noted below. Minor stock of any such items in City possession after this date will be consumed, but no further purchases of such materials will be made.

Section 2. All tenants, renters, and officially-recognized users of City-owned buildings and parks are strongly encouraged to comply with the same restrictions and are given the same exceptions as provided in this policy for governmental operations. Any contract or written guidelines intended for use with such an entity or group after June 1, 2012, will include language consistent with this policy and this section.

Section 3. Exclusions:

- a. Common food and beverage containers, such as aluminum and steel cans, plastic bottles and jugs, and paper milk cartons, all of which are readily recyclable throughout the City;
- b. Typically small, single-serve items that, because of waste or food-safety issues, are otherwise problematic to provide. These items also generally contribute a very minor additional load to landfills. This includes individual coffee creamer packets or cups, and small butter, jam, syrup, condiment, etc., packets;
- c. Plastic wrap intended to seal food containers in the absence of a lid or cover that could not be used because of the shape or size of area to cover;
- d. Zip-lock and folding plastic bags meant to preserve and carry leftover food during handling and storage for later use;

- e. Single-serve food items that come prepackaged from manufacturers and vendors, such as candy bars, gum, ice cream, etc., such as could be purchased from vending machines or stores;
- f. Finally, it is not intended that this policy be applied to what individual City employees or facilities and parks users provide for their own consumption, though the City strongly encourages all citizens to be good stewards of the environment we all share.

Section 4. This policy is based on current technology, general product availability, and service levels provided by local companies. As labeling becomes more explicit and informative, as opportunities to recycle materials come more widely into practice, and as new materials enter the marketplace, it is the intent of the City of Edmonds that this policy will be reviewed and revised to enable greater sustainability and more paths to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

RESOLVED this 22nd day of May, 2012.

APPROVED:


MAYOR, DAVID O. EARLING

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:


CITY CLERK, SANDRA S. CHASE

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| FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK: | 05-18-2012 |
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